

As a licensed Montana educator and full-time parent of three children, and I strongly urge you to reconsider your support of mandatory full-day kindergarten.

The United States is falling farther and farther behind in educational achievement, but full-day Kindergarten is not the magic answer to this and the other social issues it claims to solve. Finland's school system is considered to be the best in the world, yet Finnish children begin school at age 7. A love of reading and unwavering family involvement appear to be the strongest reasons for their success. Perhaps rather than mandatory state-subsidized daycare, the money could best be used for programs to empower parents to instill the value of education in their children.

Some schools in Helena have already embraced full-day Kindergarten, and **all that I ask is that options for half-day kindergarten remain**, allowing involved parents such as ourselves a traditional and more realistic transition into school for our children.

Pamela Choc  
723 Bridgeview Ct.  
Helena, MT 59601  
(406) 442-1109